

Mr. Chennakesava Rao said that areca is seldom ready for sale before the end of March and it is not sold before July. The khists begin in January and areca garden owners have to borrow money at heavy interest to pay the kandayam. As in the case of coffee, the kandayam on the gardens may be made payable in May.

Mr. Shama Rao said that in some places in the same district khists commenced in February, and thus, while garden owners in the Shikarpur Taluk could pay their assessment later, their neighbours in the Sorab Taluk had to begin payment a month earlier. The distinction of khists for Malnad and Maidan may be done away with.

The First Councillor suggested that, if there was any difficulty, the number of khists may be reduced, and the garden owners required to pay the kandayam in two instalments by the end of April. The Representatives would not agree to this.

The Revenue Commissioner pointed out that, in order to facilitate collection, khists had to commence earlier in the Malnad.

Reply of Government.—After inviting the opinion of the Revenue Commissioner and Deputy Commissioners, Government have already decided that no change was necessary. (No. R. 5928-36—L. R. 28-05-11, dated 16th November 1905.) They are not disposed to reconsider the matter.

SUBJECT No. 66.

Increase of khists from 4 to 6 commencing from January.

Messrs. Gundu Rao, Basave Gowda and Nanjundiah, Bowringpet Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—Some years back, when the prospects of the season were very favorable, owing to copious and timely rainfall, the land revenue was being recovered by Government in eight khists. Now when the usual rains have been disappointing, the khists have been reduced to four. Hereafter, six khists may be fixed for the recovery of land revenue, commencing from January.

Reply of Government.—It was stated at the meeting in 1904 that there was no need to change the khistbandi now fixed, as the existing rules provide for relaxation in exceptional conditions. There is no reason for reconsidering this decision.

SUBJECT No. 67.

Abolition or reduction of the levy of notice fee.

Messrs. C. Nagappa of the Nagar Taluk; Hariyappa of the Shikarpur Taluk; G. Tirunavalengar, Venkatarajah and Padmarajah, Channarayana Taluk.

Summary of Discussion.—(1) Notices of demand for arrears of land revenue may conveniently be served on defaulters by the village officials, and this arrangement will obviate the necessity for employing special process servers, and the poor raiyats who cannot without difficulty pay the kandayam proper will be relieved of this extra payment. Formerly no such fee was levied. It is therefore requested that the arrangement of notice fee above may kindly be adopted and the levy of notice fee abolished.

(2) Messrs. Venkatasami Beddi and Venkataramappa, Srinivaspur Taluk; Seenappa and Nanje Gowda of Krishnarajpete Taluk.

(2) When demand notice is issued for the land revenue arrears due, a fee of 8 annas is levied for arrears above 5 rupees. While the raiyat is unable to pay up the arrears itself, it is very hard to call upon him to pay this additional sum. A fee of 4 annas was being recovered formerly irrespective of the amount of arrears. The old practice may be revived and the higher rate reduced.

(3) Mr. Chennakesava Setti, Hassan Taluk.

(3) The rate of notice fees is 4 annas for 5 rupees and below and 8 annas above that sum. This may be changed into 4 annas for arrears of revenue within 20 rupees and 8 annas for sums above 20 rupees.

Messrs. K. Ramanuj Iengar, Gubbi Taluk; Seenappa, Krishnarajpete Taluk, and M. K. Krishna Murti Rao, Magadi Taluk.

(4) The fee for the demand notice has been raised from 4 to 8 annas. Fees are levied whether the processes are executed or not. It is requested that orders may be passed to levy the fees in future only when process-servers are entertained.

Mr. Kesava Iyengar said that the notice fee should be recovered only in cases where the notice is served, and not merely after it is issued. Before making any attempt to recover the kandayam, shanbhogs cause their notices to be issued unnecessarily, and in the case of poor persons it is a great hardship as the notice fee is high, being 8 annas in case of arrears exceeding 5 rupees. Under the existing rules only Deputy Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners are empowered to excuse the fee in special cases. It is very difficult to apply to these officers in all cases, and this power may be given to Amildars. Mr. Anniah Pandit wanted this power to be given to Amildars, as even in the case of respectable people they will not care to apply for remission of small amounts to the Deputy Commissioners.

Mr. Lingegowda, patel, said that if the fee be abolished the recovery of kandayam would become difficult, as it would tend to encourage defaulters to postpone the payment of their dues.

Reply of Government.—No change is necessary in the existing practice.

SUBJECT No. 68.

Removal of process peons.

Mr. H. C. Subba Rao, Hunsur Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The practice obtains at present in all the taluks of appointing process peons for service of notice, etc., during the collection season. This has caused only confusion without any corresponding advantage to Government. The shanbhog may be entrusted with this work under the supervision of the shekdar so far as the villages forming his charge are concerned. This arrangement will obviate all unnecessary correspondence and give rise to no complaint.

Reply of Government.—No change is necessary. Where the number of processes to be served is large, it is not pos-